



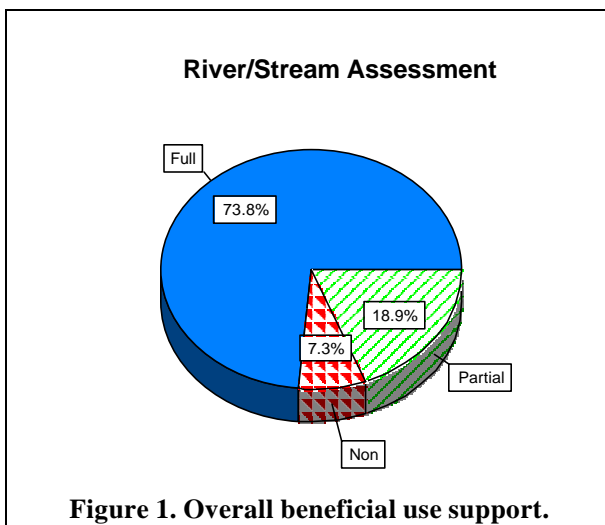
Southeast Colorado Watershed Management Unit

In July of 1997, the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) began an intensive water quality monitoring project to assess the quality of waters in the Southeastern part of Utah. This area was designated by the Division as the Southeast Colorado Watershed Management Unit. Samples were collected from 27 sampling sites and analyzed to assess the water quality of streams in the management unit. Twenty-five sites were monitored by the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) on an intensive basis from

July 1997 through June 1998. Samples were collected once a month except during spring runoff in 1998. Samples were collected twice a month during this time. No samples were collected in December. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management collected samples at 3 stream sites. Additional data were collected at these sites after the completion of the intensive survey. Canyonlands National Park personnel collected samples at two sites on the Colorado River.

Streams were assessed against State water quality standards and pollution indicators to determine if their designated beneficial uses were being met. The streams in the Southeast Watershed Management Unit are classified as one of the following or a combination of the following beneficial use classifications: protected for contact recreation (2B), cold water game fish (3A), warm water game fish (3B), non-game fish and other aquatic life (3C), and agricultural use including irrigation and stock watering (4).

There are an estimated 981 perennial stream miles within the Southeast Colorado Watershed Management Unit. An assessment of support of all beneficial uses except Class 2B (contact recreation) was made for 606 miles (61.8%). Of those assessed, 447 miles (73.8%) were assessed as fully supporting all their beneficial uses, 44 miles (7.3%) were assessed as partially supporting, 115 miles (18.9%) were assessed as not supporting at least one designated beneficial use.



The relative impact of various causes and sources of pollution for the 447 miles of stream that were assessed as either partially or not supporting their beneficial uses are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The causes of water quality impairment in the watershed were total dissolved solids, temperature, pH and gross alpha. The major sources of pollution were natural, agricultural activities, and resource extraction.

The upper and lower sections of the Paria River were listed as not supporting the agricultural beneficial use classification (Class 4) because of high concentrations of total dissolved solids. Johnson Creek, Indian Creek and North Creek were assessed as having pH problems. The source of the problem is unknown.

Mill Creek, Onion Creek and Castle Creek all had TDS violations and Onion Creek along with Mill Creek had

temperatures that exceeded the temperature standards for aquatic life. The Dolores River and LaSal Creek were assessed as fully supporting the beneficial uses that they were assessed for.

If you have questions about the report or wish to obtain a copy, it can be found at the Division of Water Quality's home page or by requesting a copy from Tom Toole, (801) 538-6859 or e-mail ttoole@deq.state.us.ut.

Percent of Stream Miles Affected By Causes Southeast Colorado Watershed Management Unit

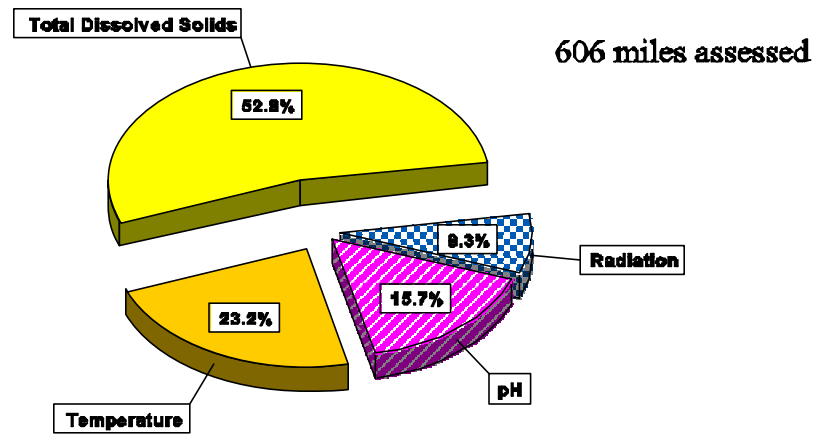


Figure 2. Relative percent impact of causes on stream water quality.

Sources of Stream Water Quality Impairment Southeast Colorado Management Unit

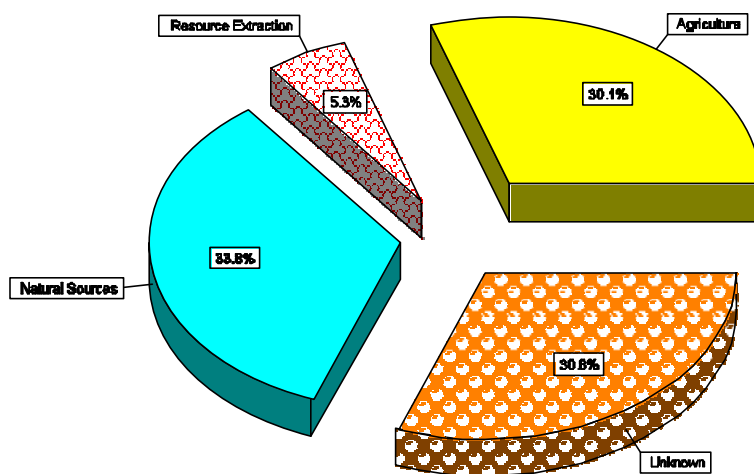


Figure 3. Relative percent impact of sources on stream water quality.

Southeast Colorado Beneficial Use Support

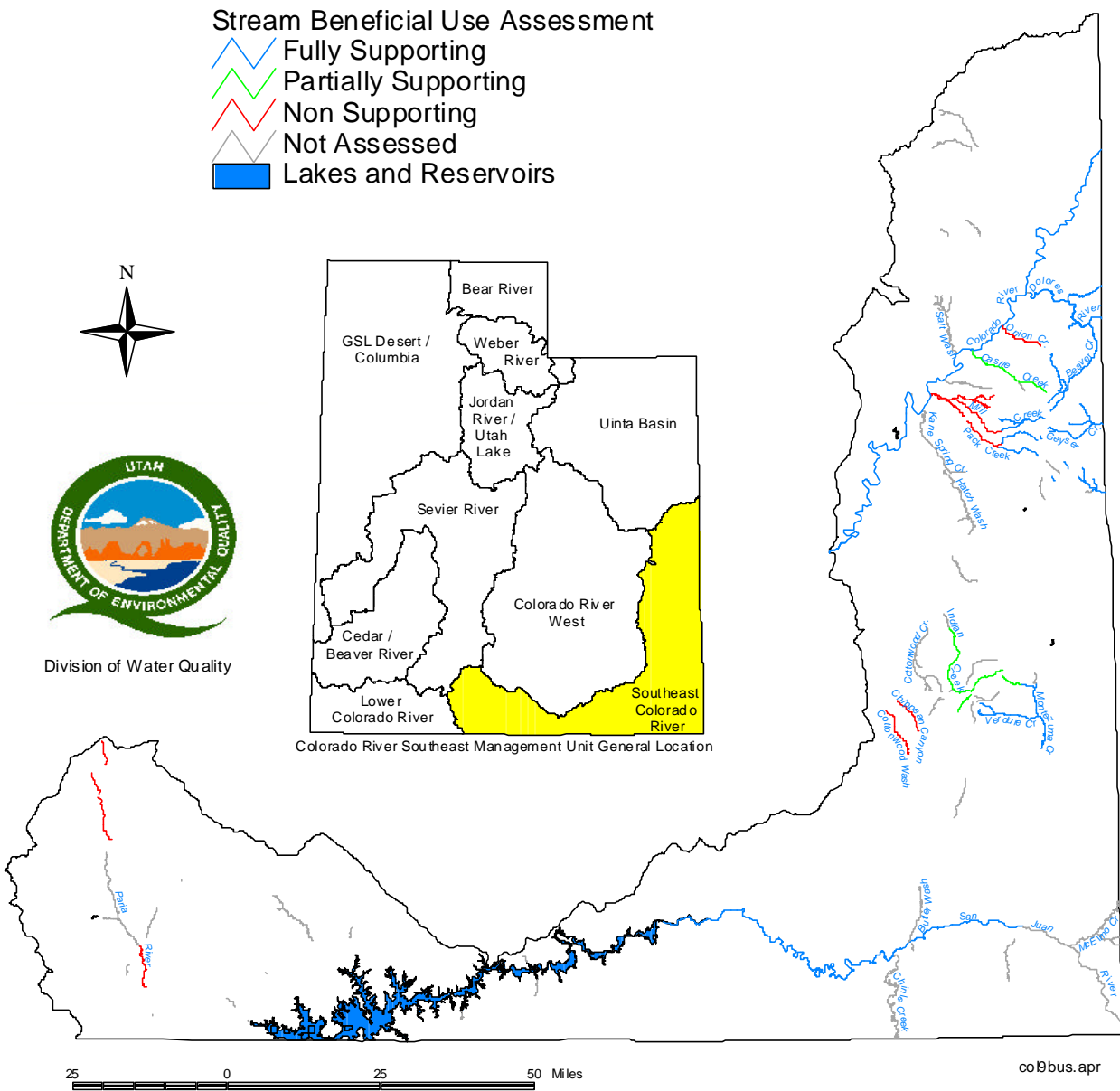


Figure 4. Beneficial use support and sampling sites for the Southeast Colorado Watershed Management Unit.

